additional grant but I expect we will have to come at the next Session. What I mean is that when the question was considered, it was thought impossible by the strengthening the offices by a few clerks to remove the present congestion, as the Sub-Registrar who has to affix signature on every page of every document also requires urgent relief.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): Is there any more Sub-Registry offices having more than six thousand documents or so ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Apparently not, because the Director has not brought that to the notice of Government.

The demand was put to the vote of the House and carried.

DEMAND XIV—AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Sir, I move for a supplementary grant not exceeding Rs. 1,800 under Demand XIV—Agriculture and Fisheries. I think it is well that I explain briefly the necessity for this grant so that my friends on the other side of the House may save the trouble of making long speeches on hypothetical grounds. The purpose of this grant is to make an experiment to solve the problem of ploughing punja lands. The practical punja cultivators know the difficulties they experience in ploughing their lands. They also know that if these lands are ploughed efficiently, they will be able to raise a successful crop. Probably, most members of the House are aware that the punja lands are submerged under water for nearly 8 months of the year and that in the month of Tulam or Vrischikam the water is bailed out, the seed is sown and the crop is harvested by the end of Minam or Medam. The only time when they could plough the lands dry is just after the harvest and before the monsoon breaks out and this period is not sufficient for the efficient ploughing of all the lands. Moreover there may be occasional showers during this period and then, it becomes practically impossible to plough the lands either with cattle or even with any mechanical plough. So the problem has been troubling the cultivators and with a view to solve this problem the Government announced a reward of Rs. 500 for a successful design of a motor plough which could be used when lands were under water. A number of competing designs were sent in and the Government appointed a Committee consisting of Officials and Non-officials to examine these designs and to select the best out of them for the award of the prize. The Committee examined all the designs and found that two of them were nearly feasible and the rest they rejected because there were many defects in them. The two designs which the Committee approved of were submitted to Government with the report that before they could express an opinion difinitely whether either of them would be a practical success it would be necessary to construct working models and test them.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether there were any technical experts in the Committee ?

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DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): There were. There were Executive Engineer Mr. John Kurian, the Industrial Engineer and the Director of Agriculture on the Committee.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Were they not able to say anything certain about these models?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): They were not. They thought that the two designs they approved of were good and might probably serve the purpose but before they could express a definite opinion they said that working models should be made and tried

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether the officers in the Agricultural Department invented any other design for ploughing lands under water?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): They have not.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Are there not experts in the department?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Not for making ploughs.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Are there not experts for promotion of agriculture?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): There are experts to advise cultivators on scientific agriculture.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Are there not in the department experts such as the oil expert, the punnac expert etc., who will be competent to give advice?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): The punnac expert if there is one, can only advise ryots as to how to consume punnac, I mean how it is to be used in the land to increase their crops.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Can the member give some information about the technical side of this plough?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I said nobody is able to give a definite opinion about the practicability of these designs. There are only sketches on paper and one is not able to say anything definite unless working models are made and tried and that is what the Committee has recommended.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Could not the designer himself be asked to undertake the experiment?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I am coming to that. The idea is to attach a tractor plough to a motor boat and work it on water. Those who have seen the method of ploughing the punja lands know how it is done at present. Cattle are yoked, a plough is tied to the yoke and the cattle are driven into the water and they swim across and the plough may scratch a furrow are float in water. This is the kind of ploughing given to punja lands

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at present. If these lands could be ploughed efficiently cultivators would get a better crop than they do at present. The idea is to invent a plough which could be attached to a motor boat; it must be self adjusting so as to be able to plough lands which contains depressions and elevations.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether the amount of Rs. 1,800 includes the cost of the motor boat also?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): No; I am coming to that point. The amount asked for is for making the two models and to demonstrate their use. The Government should spend the money required and the models will remain the property of the Government. One of the inventors of these designs said that he was not able to find money to make a working model but requested the Committee that Government should take it up and make the model. If they did it the machine would become their property. The Committee thought that with about Rs. 2,400 they could make working models of these two designs. They also wanted about Rs. 600 for demonstrating the use of the machines and so asked for Rs. 3,000. But when one of the inventors was consulted he said that he was not prepared to agree to the condition that the models made should be Government's property. He wanted it to be his own.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): Could not Government help him by advancing a loan for the purpose?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): The man who is prepared to make the working model has no landed property to give security for a loan. So if the Government is not able to recover the money from him they have to lose it.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): Could not Government advance the loan on other sufficient security?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): He has no security to offer.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): Was he consulted?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Yes, he was consulted. He wants Rs. 1,200 to make the model and Rs. 600 to try its working; and the model will remain Government's property.

The Committee sent the proposal to the Economic Development Board and the Board also approved of it.

Now, the question may be asked by my friends on the other side of the House 'why was this not anticipated at the time the budget was prepared'. The matter was then under correspondence. The Report was sent to Government and to the Development Board. Final orders were not passed at the time the budget was prepared. It was only very recently that the Development Board made its recommendation and the Government accepted it. I was therefore not able to include any provision for this purpose in my budget for the current year.

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MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether such a plough is being made use of in any other part of the world?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): No. I hardly think there is any other part of the world where there is this sort of land.

MR. KALLUR NARAYANA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): ഫുതുങ്ങിയതു് എത്ര അടി വെള്ളം വേണ്ടിവരും?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): ഏഴുത്രഅടിവെള്ളം ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നാലും അതിൽ ഉഴാം.

MR. KALLUR NARAYANA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): രണ്ടടിവെള്ളമുണ്ടായിരുന്നാൽ ഉഴാമോ?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): രണ്ടു അടിമുതൽ ഏഴുത്രഅടിവെള്ളം ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നാലും ഉഴാം.

MR. KALLUR NARAYANA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): മോട്ടാർ ബോട്ട് കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതിനു വെള്ളം ധാരളം വേണ്ടേ?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): ഷാലോ ആയിട്ടുള്ള ബോട്ടായിരുന്നാൽ ൨ അടിവെള്ളം ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നാലുംമതി.

MR. KALLUR NARAYANA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): അപ്പോൾ അതുമാതിരി ഒരു ബോട്ടുണ്ടാക്കണം.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): ഇപ്പോൾ പരിശോധിക്കാനായിട്ട് ഒരു ബോട്ട് വാടകയ്ക്കെടുക്കാനാണു് നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു.

My friend Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai put a question about this. The sum now asked for does not include the cost of the motor boat. The proposal is to hire a motor boat.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Will it be in the capacity of the ordinary *Punja* owner to purchase such a plough?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): No. If the experiment is going to be a success companies will be formed like, for example, the companies who keep oil engines for pumping out water and let them out for hire. Companies will be organised and they will make the ploughs and hire them out. It is not possible for each individual cultivator to make or buy such a plough or a motor boat for this purpose. This is only an experiment. It may or may not succeed.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Is it possible to use the plough in shallow waters?

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DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Yes; it is a sort of automatically adjusting plough.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether the proposed experiment and the designs have been submitted to any competent expert before the Government thought of placing it before the Council?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): The Committee consisted of experts available in Travancore.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Am I to understand that the matter was not placed before any expert from outside, any better expert?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): No.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I take it from the Directo that he is sanguine about the experiment?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I would not have come to the Council for this grant to make a working model and try it actually if I had been sanguine about it. The Committee wanted to make a trial. That was why they recommended that a working model should be made and that it should be tried before they could say definitely whether it would be a success or not.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know from the Director of Agriculture how the design that he now wants to try compares with the design of the other inventor who withdrew from the conditions?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): The Committee was not able to decide which was better. Each had its own advantages and disadvantages. That was why the Committee recommended that working models of both should be made.

MR. KURANDIPALLIL R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റിയിൽ എക്സ്പെർട്ട് ആരെല്ലാമാണ്?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): The Committee consisted of Messrs. John Kurian, Retired Executive Engineer—he was then in service—, Mr. K. P. P. Menon till recently Industrial Engineer and myself. We were the official members. The non-officials were Mr. Pothan—I think he was an Engineer in some Firm in Alleppey—and Mr. Ramakrishna Panikkar of Chalayil house a practical cultivator.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether the inventor has any foreign University degree?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I have not enquired into it; perhaps not.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether the design by the inventor who withrew from the conditions, whether that also has to be used with the aid of a motor boat?

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DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Yes.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, North*): I would like to say that if this experiment turns out successful it would be of the greatest possible help to *puncha* cultivators in Kuttanad.

The demand was put to the vote of the House and carried.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XVI—MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

MRS. M. POONEN LUKOSE (*Senior Surgeon, Women's Medical Services*): Sir, I move for a supplementary grant not exceeding Rs. 5,550 under Demand XVI—Medical Department.

This amount is required for the opening of two dispensaries, one at Tovala and the other at Edathua. It covers the expenditure for the remaining 7 months of the year. It will be noticed that the amount asked for each of these dispensaries is slightly higher than what it used to be in previous years for similar dispensaries. That is because instead of two Sub-Assistant Surgeons two Assistant Surgeons are proposed to be appointed. I must not be understood to say that the two new Assistant Surgeons are to be put in charge of these dispensaries. It only means that there is to be an increase by two in the cadre of Assistant Surgeons.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know from the learned Minister of Health what happened to the provision that has already been made for opening some new dispensaries.

MRS. M. POONEN LUKOSE (*Senior Surgeon, Women's Medical Services*): That provision has not been utilised yet.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): How is it that no action has yet been taken?

MRS. M. POONEN LUKOSE (*Senior Surgeon, Women's Medical Services*): Action is being taken. The medical equipment for the dispensaries is not ready yet.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know when these dispensaries will be opened?

MRS. M. POONEN LUKOSE (*Senior Surgeon, Women's Medical Services*): Some may be opened in less than 2 months.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I beg to oppose this motion also. (*Laughter.*) My object is to bring to the notice of Government certain serious defects in the medical relief given to the people at large. The first defect that I have to mention is the want of knowledge on the part of Travancore Medical men about the recent advances in the treatment of diseases. Well it is a very serious charge that I make. But I am constrained to do so from the various instances which have come to my knowledge. For example there was a case near my house of a pregnant lady who went to the Hospital to get a purgative. A purgative was given after examination by the medical man.

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